

Claims 1 and 16-20 are amended in accordance with the suggestion by the Examiner. The amendments are consistent with Applicant's remarks submitted in its Office Action response on December 20, 2002 and the telephonic interview between the Examiner and Applicant's attorneys of the same date. The amendments are made for the purpose of making express what was intended and inherent in the claims. Accordingly, no narrowing amendment is intended.

In view of the amendments and the remarks herein, Applicant believes that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the art of record and clearly supported by the specification, particularly when considered with the drawings. Applicant believes that the Application is now in a condition for allowance, and reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that contacting Applicant's attorney via telephone will advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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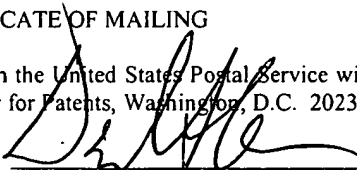
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ATTACHMENT
REDLINED AMENDMENT

Claims As Amended

Please substitute the following amended claim(s) for the respectively referenced claim(s) currently on record:

1. (Once Amended) An integrated evaluation and simulation system for a weapon system, comprising:

a computer system programmed to implement a causal network model comprising an integrated collection of analysis models including at least one dynamic parameter, for creating a virtual representation of a weapon system;

at least one virtual simulation system operably coupled to said causal network model to simulate said weapon system; and

a user interface operably coupled to at least said computer system to selectively input data into said causal network model and receive information from said causal network model and said virtual simulation system.

16. (Once Amended) An integrated evaluation and simulation computer system for allocating resources across a system architecture of a weapon system to optimize a combat effectiveness of said weapon system, said computer system comprising:

means for inputting data into and receiving information from said computer system;

means for distributing data and information between said computer system and at least one virtual simulation system; and

means for creating a virtual representation of an optimally effective weapon system based on a causal network model of said weapon system that includes at least one dynamic parameter.

17. (Once Amended) A method of integrated evaluation and simulation for allocating resources across a system architecture of a weapon system to optimize a combat effectiveness of said weapon system, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a computer system having a user interface and a causal network model including at least one dynamic parameter;
- b) providing a virtual simulation system;
- c) selectively inputting data into said causal network model to create a virtual representation of an optimally effective weapon system;
- d) selectively running said virtual representation of said optimally effective weapon system in said virtual simulation system; and
- e) utilizing information obtained from steps (c) and (d) to enhance said virtual representation of said optimally effective weapon system.

18. (Once Amended) In a computer system, a computer-readable storage media storing at least one computer program that operates as an integrated performance simulator for allocating resources across a system architecture of a weapon system to optimize a combat effectiveness of said weapon system, said program comprising the steps of:

- a) storing a causal network model of said weapon system that includes at least one dynamic parameter in said computer system;
- b) obtaining data necessary for said program to create a virtual representation of an optimally effective weapon system;
- c) pulsing said causal network model to create said virtual representation of said optimally effective weapon system;
- d) selectively sending said virtual representation to a virtual simulation system for simulating weapon system operations; and
- e) receiving information about the performance of said weapons system.

19. (Once Amended) An integrated evaluation and simulation system for a weapon system, comprising:

a computer system programmed to implement a causal network model comprising an integrated collection of analysis models including at least one dynamic parameter, for creating a virtual representation of a weapon system and to implement a means to communicate with a virtual simulation system; and

a user interface operably coupled to at least said computer system to selectively input data into said causal network model and receive information from said causal network model and said virtual simulation system.

20. (Once Amended) An integrated evaluation and simulation system for a weapon system, comprising:

a computer system programmed to implement a causal network model comprising an integrated collection of analysis models including at least one dynamic parameter, for creating a virtual representation of a weapon system; and

a user interface operably coupled to said computer system to selectively input data into and receive information from said causal network model.